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Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Angola, Armenia, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Gabon, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mali, Mexico, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Timor-Leste, Togo, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam: draft resolution

The right to food

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming all its previous resolutions on the issue of the right to food, in particular resolution 61/163 of 19 December 2006 and resolution 6/2 of the Human Rights Council of 27 September 2007,[1] as well as all resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights in this regard,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[2] which provides that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for her or his health and well-being, including food, the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition[3] and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[4]

[1] See document A/HRC/6/L.11 (to be issued in final form as part of *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/63/53)), chap. I, sect. A.

[2] Resolution 217 A (III).

[3] *Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5-16 November 1974* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), chap. I.

[4] See resolution 55/2.

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Recalling also the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[5] in which the fundamental right of every person to be free from hunger is recognized,

Bearing in mind the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action[6] and the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later, adopted in Rome on 13 June 2002,[7]

Reaffirming the concrete recommendations contained in the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, adopted by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in November 2004,[8]

Bearing in mind paragraph 6 of its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006,

Reaffirming that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and that they must be treated globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

Reaffirming also that a peaceful, stable and enabling political, social and economic environment, at both the national and the international levels, is the essential foundation that will enable States to give adequate priority to food security and poverty eradication,

Reiterating, as in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later, that food should not be used as an instrument of political or economic pressure, and reaffirming in this regard the importance of international cooperation and solidarity, as well as the necessity of refraining from unilateral measures that are not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations and that endanger food security,

Convinced that each State must adopt a strategy consistent with its resources and capacities to achieve its individual goals in implementing the recommendations contained in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action and, at the same time, cooperate regionally and internationally in order to organize collective solutions to global issues of food security in a world of increasingly interlinked institutions, societies and economies where coordinated efforts and shared responsibilities are essential,

Recognizing that the problems of hunger and food insecurity have global dimensions and that there has been virtually no progress made on reducing hunger and that it could increase dramatically in some regions unless urgent, determined and concerted action is taken, given the anticipated increase in the world's population and the stress on natural resources,

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[5] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[6] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the World Food Summit, 13-17 November 1996* (WFS 96/REP), part one, appendix.

[7] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the World Food Summit: five years later, 10-13 June 2002*, part one, appendix; see also A/57/499, annex.

[8] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Session, Rome, 22-27 November 2004* (CL 127/REP), appendix D; see also E/CN.4/2005/131, annex.

Noting that environmental degradation, desertification and global climate change are exacerbating destitution and desperation causing a negative impact on the realization of the right to food, in particular in developing countries,

Expressing its deep concern at the number and scale of natural disasters, diseases and pests and their increasing impact in recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and livelihood and threatened agricultural production and food security, in particular in developing countries,

Stressing the importance of reversing the continuing decline of official development assistance devoted to agriculture, both in real terms and as a share of total official development assistance,

Welcoming the theme chosen by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for 2007 World Food Day, namely, "The right to food",

Taking note of the Final Declaration adopted at the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Porto Alegre, Brazil, on 10 March 2006,[9]

1. *Reaffirms* that hunger constitutes an outrage and a violation of human dignity and therefore requires the adoption of urgent measures at the national, regional and international levels for its elimination;

2. *Also reaffirms* the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, so as to be able to fully develop and maintain his or her physical and mental capacities;

3. *Considers it intolerable* that more than 6 million children still die every year from hunger-related illness before their fifth birthday and that there are about 854 million undernourished people in the world and that, while the prevalence of hunger has diminished, the absolute number of undernourished people has been increasing in recent years when, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the planet could produce enough food to feed 12 billion people, twice the world's present population;

4. *Expresses its concern* that women and girls are disproportionately affected by hunger, food insecurity and poverty, in part as a result of gender inequality and discrimination, that in many countries, girls are twice as likely as boys to die from malnutrition and preventable childhood diseases, and that it is estimated that almost twice as many women as men suffer from malnutrition;

5. *Encourages* all States to take action to address gender inequality and discrimination against women, in particular where it contributes to the malnutrition of women and girls, including measures to ensure the full and equal realization of the right to food and ensuring that women have equal access to resources, including income, land and water, to enable them to feed themselves and their families;

6. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the right to food to continue mainstreaming a gender-equality perspective in the fulfilment of his mandate, and encourages the Food and Agriculture Organization of

[9] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the International Conference on Agrian Reform and Rural Development, Porto Alegre, Brazil, 7-10 March 2006* (C:2006/REP), appendix G.

the United Nations and all other United Nations bodies and mechanisms addressing the right to food and food insecurity to integrate a gender-equality perspective into their relevant policies, programmes and activities;

7. *Reaffirms* the need to ensure that programmes delivering safe and nutritious food are inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities;

8. *Encourages* all States to take steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the right to food, including steps to promote the conditions for everyone to be free from hunger and, as soon as possible, to enjoy fully the right to food, and to create and adopt national plans to combat hunger, and recognizes in this regard the great efforts and positive developments with respect to the right to food in some developing countries and regions including those highlighted in the interim report of the Special Rapporteur;[10]

9. *Stresses* that improving access to productive resources and public investment in rural development is essential for eradicating hunger and poverty, in particular in developing countries, including through the promotion of investments in appropriate, small-scale irrigation and water management technologies in order to reduce vulnerability to droughts;

10. *Recognizes* that 80 per cent of hungry people live in rural areas, and 50 per cent are small-scale farm-holders, and that these people are especially vulnerable to food insecurity, given the increasing cost of inputs, and the fall in farm incomes; that access to land, water, seeds and other natural resources is an increasing challenge for poor producers; and that support by States for small farmers, fishing communities and local enterprises is an element key to food security and provision of the right to food;

11. *Stresses* the importance of fighting hunger in rural areas, including through national efforts supported by international partnerships to stop desertification and land degradation and through investments and public policies that are specifically appropriate to the risk of drylands, and, in this regard, calls for the full implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;[11]

12. *Reiterates* that indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, as stated in article 21 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,[12] and acknowledges that many indigenous organizations and representatives of indigenous communities have expressed in different forums their deep concerns over the obstacles and challenges they face with respect to the full enjoyment of the right to food, and calls upon States to take special actions to combat the root causes of the disproportionately high level of hunger and malnutrition among indigenous peoples and the continuous discrimination against them;

13. *Requests* all States and private actors, as well as international organizations within their respective mandates, to take fully into account the need to

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[10] See A/62/289.

[11] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[12] Resolution 61/295, annex.

promote the effective realization of the right to food for all, including in the ongoing negotiations in different fields;

14. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen international assistance, upon request and in cooperation with affected countries, towards a better realization and protection of the right to food, and in particular to develop national protection mechanisms for people forced to leave their homes and land because of hunger or natural or man-made disasters affecting the enjoyment of the right to food;

15. *Stresses* the need to make efforts to mobilize and optimize the allocation and utilization of technical and financial resources from all sources, including external debt relief for developing countries, and to reinforce national actions to implement sustainable food security policies;

16. *Recognizes* the need for a successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round negotiations of the World Trade Organization as a contribution to creating international conditions that permit the realization of the right to food;

17. *Stresses* that all States should make all efforts to ensure that their international policies of a political and economic nature, including international trade agreements, do not have a negative impact on the right to food in other countries and include safeguard mechanisms to allow appropriate responses to any resulting food insecurity or hunger;

18. *Recalls* the importance of the New York Declaration on Action against Hunger and Poverty, and recommends the continuation of efforts aimed at identifying additional sources of financing for the fight against hunger and poverty;

19. *Recognizes* that the promises made at the World Food Summit in 1996 to halve the number of persons who are undernourished are not being fulfilled, and invites once again all international financial and development institutions, as well as the relevant United Nations agencies and funds, to give priority to and provide the necessary funding to realize the aim of halving by 2015 the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, as well as the right to food as set out in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security[6] and the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[4]

20. *Reaffirms* that integrating food and nutritional support, with the goal that all people at all times will have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life, is part of a comprehensive response to the spread of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other communicable diseases,

21. *Urges* States to give adequate priority in their development strategies and expenditures to the realization of the right to food;

22. *Stresses* the importance of international development cooperation and assistance, in particular in activities related to disaster risk reduction and in emergency situations such as natural and man-made disasters, diseases and pests, for the realization of the right to food and the achievement of sustainable food security, while recognizing that each country has the primary responsibility for ensuring the implementation of national programmes and strategies in this regard;

23. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders to support national efforts aimed at responding rapidly to the food

crises currently occurring across Africa and expresses its deep concern that funding shortfalls are forcing the World Food Programme to cut operations across Southern Africa;

24. *Invites* all relevant international organizations, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, to promote policies and projects that have a positive impact on the right to food, to ensure that partners respect the right to food in the implementation of common projects, to support strategies of Member States aimed at the fulfilment of the right to food and to avoid any actions that could have a negative impact on the realization of the right to food;

25. *Takes note* of the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, and welcomes the valuable work and commitment of the first mandate-holder towards achieving the realization of the right to food;

26. *Supports* the realization of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur as extended for a period of three years by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 6/2 of 27 September 2007;[1]

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide all the necessary human and financial resources for the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur;

28. *Welcomes* the work already done by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in promoting the right to adequate food, in particular its General Comment No. 12 (1999) on the right to adequate food (article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights),[13] in which the Committee affirmed, inter alia, that the right to adequate food is indivisibly linked to the inherent dignity of the human person and is indispensable for the fulfilment of other human rights enshrined in the International Bill of Human Rights, and is also inseparable from social justice, requiring the adoption of appropriate economic, environmental and social policies, at both the national and the international levels, oriented to the eradication of poverty and the fulfilment of all human rights for all;

29. *Recalls* General Comment No. 15 (2002) of the Committee on the right to water (articles 11 and 12 of the Covenant),[14] in which the Committee noted, inter alia, the importance of ensuring sustainable water resources for human consumption and agriculture in realization of the right to adequate food;

30. *Reaffirms* that the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, adopted by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in November 2004,[8] represent a practical tool to promote the realization of the right to food for all, contribute to the achievement of food security and thus provide an additional instrument in the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

31. *Welcomes* the continued cooperation of the High Commissioner, the Committee and the Special Rapporteur, and encourages them to continue their cooperation in this regard;

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[13] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 2* and corrigendum (E/2000/22 and Corr.1), annex V.

[14] Ibid., *2003 Supplement No. 2* (E/2003/22), annex.

32. *Calls upon* all Governments to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur in his task, to supply all necessary information requested by him and to give serious consideration to responding favourably to the requests of the Special Rapporteur to visit their countries to enable him to fulfil his mandate more effectively;

33. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution and to continue to examine the emerging issues with regard to the realization of the right to food within his existing mandate;

34. *Invites* Governments, relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, treaty bodies and civil society actors, including non-governmental organizations, as well as the private sector, to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur in the fulfilment of his mandate, inter alia, through the submission of comments and suggestions on ways and means of realizing the right to food;

35. *Decides* to continue the consideration of the question at its sixty-third session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".